



TUFTS UNIVERSITY
School of Medicine

Department of Pathology

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~~Dr. Robert C. Hockett~~
~~Research Director~~
The Council for Tobacco Research
U.S.A., Inc.
110 East 59th Street
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Dear Dr. ~~Hockett~~: MCALESTER

During the first week of July of this year the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology is sponsoring a one week conference on Lymphocytes and Antibodies. I am writing to you in hopes that you will be able to support this enterprise.

Statement of Need for the Conference

There are a few conferences that serve on a regular basis to mark progress and generate new lines of research. Of those conferences that are open to immunologists from the whole country, only a few have achieved reputations that are great enough to attract participation almost regardless of topics or speakers. The American Association of Immunologists Meeting, the ICN-UCLA Conference, the Mid-Winter Meeting, and the Gordon Conference have achieved this status.

Of these, only the Gordon Conferences have a format that encourage intense discussion and information exchange. Each is limited in its list of speakers and participants; leave several hours each day free from formal meetings; and is held in a remote setting. In fact, the Gordon Conference is so popular that only a small fraction of applicants can attend.

It is this combination of format and reputation that the FASEB Summer Research Conference hopes to achieve. This year, the fourth in which an Immunology Conference will be held, we should achieve this. Unlike previous years, there is no ICN-UCLA Conference on Immunology, and there will be only one FASEB Meeting with an immunological theme. Therefore other than the Gordon Conference and the FASEB Summer Research Conference there will be no small immunology meeting, to which any immunologist may apply. Therefore this FASEB Meeting will be an essential meeting for most of the participants.

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A second reason to expect that this will be a particularly productive meeting is that more than the usual, casual, effort will be made to structure the sessions so that speakers do not go on too long, and that chair people play an active role in generating discussion by high-lighting key problems, pin-pointing differences and exploring potential areas of future work. (A prepared chairperson can be crucial in determining the success of a session. Bill Paul, Martin Ruff, and Max Cooper are examples of well prepared, highly interactive chairs. It is considered that all chair people should set high standards for themselves). The experience that one of us (H.H.W.) has acquired in several years as primary organizer of the New England Immunology Conference, one of the more successful of the annual regional conferences, should be an asset for accomplishing this.

While there are some themes which are so critical that they occur in virtually every immunology conference (the structure of T cell receptors for antigen comes to mind) there are others that will be the particular concern of this conference.

Several lines of evidence suggest that there are qualitatively different interactions between T cells and distinct populations of antigen presenting cells. While this problem emerged originally in the form "Is there only one antigen presenting cell?", it has been recast in the form: "Can antigen be presented in different ways by different cells?" Several speakers will address this question.

The recent discovery that B cells can present antigen led to a corollary observation that the ability to present is a radiosensitive property of "activated B cells". While there is some dispute about this point, there is intense interest in the delineation of the early steps which follow antigen contact with a B cell and that ultimately lead to proliferation and differentiation. This topic will be the focus of one session. A parallel session on early events in T cell activation is also being held. There will be a close examination of yet another cell-cell interaction in a session devoted to the effector mechanisms utilized by cytotoxic T cells.

We have included a session on the Epstein-Barr Virus for two reasons: This is a virus associated with a relatively common group of diseases and one which is associated with marked perturbations of the immune system; infection of B cell targets by EBV leads to activation and subsequent transformation, providing a useful model for the study of B cell activation. This virus has not been discussed in the context of an immunology meeting for several years.

We look forward to a well-attended conference, with a high level of work and interaction. Since it is crucial for our success for us to be able to assure a high quality of session leaders and major speakers, we believe that support for this meeting is essential.

One problem that we face is that because of problems beyond its control FASEB had to make a late change and ask me to chair the session. While I was able to put together a program of chairpeople and speakers we are still left in need to supplementary funding. FASEB has given us \$6,000, and we currently have a pending grant applicationa to NIH, but realistically, I know that we have to raise an additional \$6,000 to ensure the financial stability of the conference (see enclosed budget sheet).

Yours truly,

H. H. Wortis / yaf
Henry H. Wortis, Associate Professor of Immunology
Chairperson, FASEB Seminar Conference